Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ASMARA 00077 221503Z

45
ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 PC-01 SY-04 USSS-00 SCCT-01 OC-05

CCO-00 A-01 OPR-01 ACDA-05 OMB-01 /075 W
---------- 124150
P R 221420Z JAN 75
FM AMCONSUL ASMARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3093
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
USCINCEUR
CINCUSNAVEUR
COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 0077

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, ET
SUBJECT: SIT REP

1. ON 22 JAN 75 AT 0500 HRS, 2ND DIV TROOPS CORDONED OFF AN AREA OF ASMARA, BORDERING CONGEN COMPOUND, AND INITIATED A SEARCH OF HOUSES, CARS, AND PEDESTRIANS. SEARCH WAS CONDUCTED TO FIND ARMS AND BOMBS, WHICH ELF/PLF HAD REPORTEDLY DISTRIBUTED TO THE POPULATION. A SIMILAR SEARCH WAS CONDUCTED BY ARMY ABOUT 6 WEEKS AGO IN ANOTHER AREA OF ASMARA. TROOPS WERE POLITE BUT FIRM IN CONDUCTING SEARCH. AMERICANS LIVING IN THE AREA WERE CONFINED TO THEIR HOUSES FOR THE DURATION OF THE SEARCH, BUT THEIR HOUSES WERE NOT SEARCHED.

COMMENT: TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE ASMARA IS NOT PART OF THE EMERGENCY AREA. IT SEEMS AS IF THE ARMY CONDUCTED THE SEARCH WITHOUT LEGAL SANCTION AND WITH VERY LITTLE COMMANDO POLICE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ASMARA 00077 221503Z

ASSISTANCE. THIS RAISES QUESTIONS ABOUT THE DURATION OF THE

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

PRESENT CEASEFIRE. I INSTRUCTED KAGNEW STATION PERSONNEL TO ALLOW THEIR HOMES TO BE SEARCHED, IF TROOPS INSIST, BUT TO INFORM ME SO THAT I CAN MAKE A PROTEST IF THE SITUATION WARRANTS. REGISTERED WEAPONS WERE CONFISCATED FROM ITALIAN CITIZENS, WHO WERE GIVEN RECEIPTS FOR THEM AND APPOINTMENTS TO DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH AUTHORITIES.

2. AT 1300 HRS TODAY A MAN THREW A GRENADE AT A JEEP OF ARMY DIRG MEMBERS AS THEY WERE ENTERING PALACE GROUNDS WHERE DIRG HAS ITS OFFICES. THE GRENADE BOUNCED OFF WINDSHIELD OF JEEP AND KILLED THROWER AS IT EXPLODED. THERE ARE NO REPORTED INJURIES TO DIRG MEMBERS.

3.A USUALLY RELIABLE SOURCE REPORTS THAT DIRG HAS ORDERED MILITARY OPERATION AGAINST ELF/PLF IN SERAE DISTRICT FOR NEAR FUTURE. OPERATION WOULD INCLUDE ARMY, AIR FORCE AND COMMANDO POLICE. SOURCE REPORTS THAT COMMANDO POLICE REFUSED TO SUBORDINATE THEIR PERSONNEL TO ARMY AND WOULD ONLY PARTICIPATE IF GIVEN THEIR OWN AREA OF OPERATIONS. SOURCE ALSO REPORTS ELF HAS RECOILLESS RIFLES WITHIN 10 KMS OF ASMARA. SOURCE STATES THAT PLF COMMAND IN ERITREA MAKES OPERATIONAL DECISIONS, BUT THAT ELF MUST WAIT FOR GUIDANCE FROM LEADERS OUTSIDE ERITREA. THIS SOURCE REPORTS ELF STRENGTH AT 18,000, AND PLF AT 8,000.

COMMENT: I THINK FIGURES SHOULD BE REDUCED BY 20 PERCENT.

4. A CONGEN MARINE GUARD REPORTS SEEING ARMY TROOPS PRACTICING ADJUSTING 105 HOWITZERS, NEAR TRACT E.

5. ASMARA IS PRESENTLY QUIET BUT OUTLOOK IS VERY UNCERTAIN.
PERRY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMISTICE, SECURITY, ARMS, CONFISCATION, POLICE INVESTIGATIONS, LIBERATION FRONTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ASMARA00077
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750024-0132
From: ASMARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750132/aaaabbqd.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 AUG 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <09 DEC 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SIT REP
TAGS: PINS, ET, ELF, PLF
To: STATE ADDIS ABABA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006